

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, MT

SUBJECT: PIONEER CORPS

REF: VALLETTA A-25

1. DR. JOSEPH CASSAR, MIN LABOR, SPEAKING OVER MALTA TELEVISION, SAID NEW PIONEER CORPS WILL REPLACE EMERGENCY LABOR CORPS (ELC) SET UP TEN MONTHS AGO. MAIN OBJECTIVE OF NEW PIONEER CORPS WILL BE ABSORB UNEMPLOYMENT WHICH INCREASED MORE THAN 600 LAST MONTH TO NEW TOTAL 7,635. IF PRESENT 1469 MEMBERSHIP OF ELC ADDED TO THIS FIGURE, PRESENT UNEMPLOYMENT ROLLS WOULD TOTAL OVER 9,000 .

2. STRUCTURE OF NEW CORPS WILL BE ON MILITARY LINES AND WILL FORM PART OF MALTA LAND FORCES. PRIVATE WITHOUT SKILLS WILL EARN TEN MALTA POUNDS PER WEEK WHILE A PIONEER WITH A TRADE WILL EARN ELEVEN MALTA POUNDS. THIS IS SUBSTANTIALLY HIGHER THAN PRESENT WAGE STRUCTURE OF ELC. TO BE ELIGIBLE TO JOIN NEW CORPS, MAN MUST BE BETWEEN 18 AND 45 YEARS OLD AND REGISTERED FOR EMPLOYMENT FOR AT LEAST SIX MONTHS. THESE
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TWO ELEGIBILITY CONDITIONS WILL NOT RPT NOT BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IF APPLICANT IS EX- SERVICE EMPLOYEE, EX- NATO EMPLOYEE, EX- BICAL BANK EMPLOYEE, EX- CIVIL DEFENSE EMPLOYEE, EX- DRYDOCKS CASUAL WORKER, OR FORMER BRITISH PETROLEUM EMPLOYEE, I. E., WORKERS WHO HAVE LOST JOBS AS RESULT GOM ACTION.

3. INITIALLY MEMBERS OF PIONEER CORPS WILL PARTICIPATE IN MILITARY EXERCISES. MEMBERS WILL WORK ON VARIOUS GOM PROJECTS INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION NEW 300,000 TON DRYDOCKS, EXTENSION LUQA AIRPORT RUNWAY, CONSTRUCTION AIRPORT TERMINAL BUILDING, EXTENSION OF ELECTRICITY AND TELEPHONE WORKS, AND THE HARBOR.

4. ENLISTMENT WILL BE FOR FIVE YEARS, BUT OLDER MEMBERS RE-EMPLOYED FROM CATEGORIES MENTIONED ABOVE WILL BE ABLE ENLIST EITHER FOR FIVE YEARS OR UNTIL THEY REACH AGE 60, WHICHEVER IS SHORTER. ALL WHO ENLIST WILL BE ABLE TO LEAVE THE CORPS ON FINDING PERMANENT EMPLOYMENT ELSEWHERE AND GROUPS MAY BE TRANSFERRED TO PRIVATE INDUSTRY SHOULD THERE BE CALLS FOR MAN-POWER BY FACTORY OWNERS.

5. COMMENT: CASSAR EMPHASIZED THAT GOM DOES NOT " INTEND TO TOLERATE LAZY PEOPLE WHO PERSEVERE IN DOING NOTHING, REGISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, AND LIVE ON SOCIAL ASSISTANCE. FROM NOW ON THE GOVERNMENT WILL SEE TO IT THAT THESE ABUSES DO NOT TAKE PLACE. ANY CULPRITS CAUGHT WILL BE SEVERELY PUNISHED." GETZ

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